



U-Bass Give-A-Way!

Thanks to Mike Upton of Kala Ukes, we bring you a very special give-away this issue. Mike sent us the U-Bass, acoustic/electric bass ukulele for some lucky reader to win.

In issue fifteen, we will be giving away the Kala "pocket uke", also thanks to Mike Upton and company.

None of the ukulele makers have been sitting still. Kala has been bringing lots of new instruments to the market. Ohana has been introducing new models so fast that their web-master is working feverishly to keep their website up to date. Some of the newest instruments are not yet listed on their site, so check with your local Ohana dealer to see the latest and greatest.

In this issue, we have the Ohana CK-35e acoustic/electric solid mahogany uke. This uke is sure to be a sell-out instrument. You can read the full review in this issue.

Tascam has introduced a new "pocketstudio" digital recorder and we review it in this issue. If you are looking for a hardware-

Based recording solution, this one is hard to beat and sounds great. It is smaller than an half-sheet of letter-sized paper and can run on batteries or an AC adapter (not included).

You hit the road and travel from place to place, setup your gear and you are ready to play for the crowd and put on a great show, but you have to wait for the show to begin. What do you do between the sound-check and time to go on stage? How can you make sure that your gear is safe and everything is ready when you take the stage? Read "Take It On the Road".

When the heat of summer hits with a vengeance, you want to be aware that storms bring special concerns for your equipment- and no surge protector on Earth can prevent catastrophe. If you must play when foul weather strikes, what can you do to protect yourself? We have some suggestions and recommendations for you.

In this issue, we have a review of the latest CD from Miss Jess and the "Love Leighs". If you don't remember Miss Jess, check out issue seven, "Up & Coming".

We reviewed "Jammin' At Jacksons" with Miss Jess. She knows how to sing and can put on a great show "live". Wait 'til you hear "Lively", you'll want to add this album to your collection, and Miss Jess is a real Texas gal.

We review Curt Sheller's book "A Guide to Blues Chord Progressions for Ukulele from A to Z", the title might read like a paragraph, but the book is full of useful information. This is one of Curt's best.

I was going to feature Spats White in this issue, but, his interview has not come in time, even after a delay. Look for Spats in the next issue.

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Tascam DP-008

Tascam, the company that invented the "home studio" has taken the basic features of their popular "portastudio" series of analog recorders and created the digital DP-008 "pocketstudio" recorder.

The DP-800 is a little smaller than a standard 8.5x11 (letter-sized) sheet of paper folded in half. It is the smallest professional-quality studio recorder I have ever seen or heard. And just so you know how impressed I am with this recorder, I bought one for my own use. Oh, I didn't NEED it, but I GOTTA HAVE IT!

One of the truly GREAT things about the DP-008 pocket-studio is that it has an 8-track configuration unlike any other.

Most 8-track digital recorders have four actual tracks with a combined 5/6 and 7/8 tracks, "for stereo recording", yeah... right. What that basically means is that you are paying for an 8-track and you are really getting a 4-track recorder, for all practical purposes. To use the eight tracks, you have to record on the first four tracks and copy the tracks (or move them) to the 5/6 and 7/8 linked tracks. The result is that you have no control over volume and panning on those tracks and you MUST

do your final mix on a computer whether you like it or not. You have no choice, it will never be right otherwise.

That is not the case with the new DP-008 recorder. You have eight individual tracks. You can record directly on any track without having to play that copying dance.

Each track has a dedicated reverb knob and you can choose from several types of reverb. The actual range of sounds and degree of reverb that you have at your finger-tips is amazing. This reverb is very clean, too. I was amazed how good it sounded... there's no more singing in a barrel sound to make your music sound like a bathroom production.

One of the shortcomings of home recording has traditionally been the use of reverb. It is terribly easy to over-do it. With the built-in reverb on Tascam's DP-008, that should be a thing of the past.

Another frequent issue in home recording is poor "gain".

Low volume has killed many an otherwise good recording. People use the "master limiter" VST plug-in to boost volume, then they "normalize" the recording— and the result is that they have added too much white-noise to the file, in effect destroying the recording or making it worthless.

The DP-008 has excellent input "gain" and the unit remains relatively quiet compared to the competition. In my recording tests, I had lots of head-room and there was no need for boosting volume using the "master limiter" plug-in. If I use the plug-in at all, it would be to add a little compression, not to boost the volume, so the recording remains clean.



In addition to a dedicated reverb control on every channel, the DP-008 has dedicated panning controls and a volume control ("level") for each track.

This recorder has phantom power for professional-quality condenser microphones and there are two XLR inputs and 1/4 inch jacks with line/mic/guitar switches. In addition, there is an "assign" key that enables you to control which input goes to which track so that you can separate a ukulele from a vocal track, for example.

The inputs also have "trim" knobs that enable you to better handle a hot incoming signal to avoid clipping.

Each track has an independent EQ that appears on the LCD screen to give you control of your tone. While I prefer using a mixing board, this little EQ feature is pretty easy to use and might save you money by not having to invest in a dedicated mixing console.

One nice little feature is a recording/editing history key that enables you to reverse editing options that you wish to undo after hearing the results. That means "non-destructive" editing, and that is always a plus when you want to prevent disaster.

The DP-008 has two built-in condenser mics and they are pretty good. I have studio mics and prefer to use those, but, if you want a good "field recorder", this unit will serve you

well the way it is equipped. I should mention here that it runs on four "AA" batteries, so, it actually is a great field recorder with many more options than the ZOOM recorders that take the lion's share of that market. Of course, the Tascam is not really pocket-sized, but, it is very small and lightweight while providing you with many more features.

I mentioned that the DP-008 has two XLR inputs with two 1/4 inch jacks for guitars and high-impedance mics. There are also jacks for a foot-switch to punch-in over-dubs, a mic/line-guitar switch, stereo line-out, headphone jack, and a volume control. The right side has an SD card slot (storage media), a standard USB port, and a 5V external power-supply connector (optional - power supply is not included in the package). The bottom panel has a battery compartment door that easily opens so that changing batteries is a snap.

In over-all performance, the recorder performed very well. I was concerned at first with what seemed like a lack of gain on the input side until I realized that the volume knob was turned down very low on the headphones. When I discovered that and turned up the volume I almost blew my head off! Okay, I fixed that problem.

After playing around with the inputs and recording with ukulele and guitar, then playing with percussion and adding a little bass, I really started to

love this recorder's feature-set. The independent reverb controls and panning from a knob rather than some digital control screen made things so much quicker and easier. I love the feel of it.

Many of our readers are too young to remember analog recording equipment, but I always liked sitting at a recording console and fiddling with knobs. I loved the tactile feel of it and the immediate response to tweaking some setting without having to dive through a bunch of menus on a tiny little LCD readout. For someone like me, this little recorder is the best thing to come along in years.

I love the fact that there are eight directly accessible tracks to use, with their own reverb controls, their own gain controls, their own panning knobs, and the unit itself sounds great!

This "pocketstudio" won't fit in a pants pocket, or a jacket, for that matter, but it will fit in a gig bag—hence the name. Tascam is not wanting to mislead anyone with the name. Their marketing video is clear about what pocket they mean when they call it a "pocket-studio".

What a great little recorder. I have not found anything better under a GRAND in price. This TRUE 8-track recording unit should be on every serious player's wish list. You can find it online at \$299 and occasionally find it on sale for as little as \$219 (I found mine at Sam Ash for that price). GRAB IT! You'll be glad you did.



Lively

The Love Leighs

Miss Jess has a new musical act, "The Love Leighs", featuring Jessica Graves (Miss Jess) on ukulele and vocals, her brother Jimmy Dreams on guitar, and Raina Krause on ukulele and vocals. What a top-notch, professional act.

Here is the song line-up:

1. Calliope
2. Finally Mine
3. Candy Man
4. Texas Woman
5. Over the Moon
6. Sparks Fly
7. Tanqueray
8. Fall
9. Brand New Hat
10. Yonder
11. Seymour's Last Dollar
12. Philadelphia

The CD kicks off with "Calliope". These gals voices iare perfect for this sort of tune and the harmonies are tight and dynamic. I love this Texas swing beat. Jimmy's guitar work is absolutely wonderful.

"Finally Mine" is a fun original tune written by Miss Jess. I love the beat of this song. It reminds me of some of the great tunes of the twenties and thirties. There are a couple spots on this track where the vocals are a little hot.

"Candy Man" has another great

beat to it and the vocals have a lot of vampy sort of vibe on this number. I love the feel of this song and the lyrics are well-written.

"Texas Woman" Sugar and Spice... and, I picture a sultry Texas lady that gets anyone's blood pumping. The guitar work on this is first-rate. I love everything about this number.

"Over the Moon" features Miss Jess on clarinet. There's a little bit of gin-joint in this tune. I love the sound. I can picture a smoke-filled speak-easy with the band on a small stage and people swinging to the music.

"Sparks Fly" another great intro, this one on ukulele. This is another great number. Check out the video on YouTube. Look for "Love Leighs" and you'll find it. Followed by "Tanqueray", the twenties and thirties vibe continues.

"Fall" has fantastic guitar playing and rock-steady ukulele work. I love the vocals. This song reminds me of the Andrews Sisters. What a great number. This song features Jimmy's fantastic guitar work.

"Brand New Hat" is another fun



song. I love the beat on this tune, too. Follow this one with "Yonder" and you have a total change of pace. The Love Leighs take you from a hopping tune to a traditional country ballad. Nice way to slow down.

"Seymour's Last Dollar" is a blues tune in the classic sense. It's a song about a gambler that is down and out. Cross the wrong guy and you could find yourself with a couple of broken knees and here's a song about it. It ain't easy being Seymour.

"Philadelphia" starts off with more excellent guitar work and a solid beat. This is a song about romancing the ladies and the night life. Again, it reminds me of speak-easy joints and the early jazz club scene. Favorite line: "You can go to hell, or Philadelphia."

I love this CD. This is one you'll want to hear more than once. The musicianship is great and the ladies have a wonderful vocal blend. The songwriting skills are also professional caliber in every sense. Miss Jess, Raina, and Jimmy Dreams all get a big round of applause from me. Great Show!

special feature



From the Field... Concert Shots

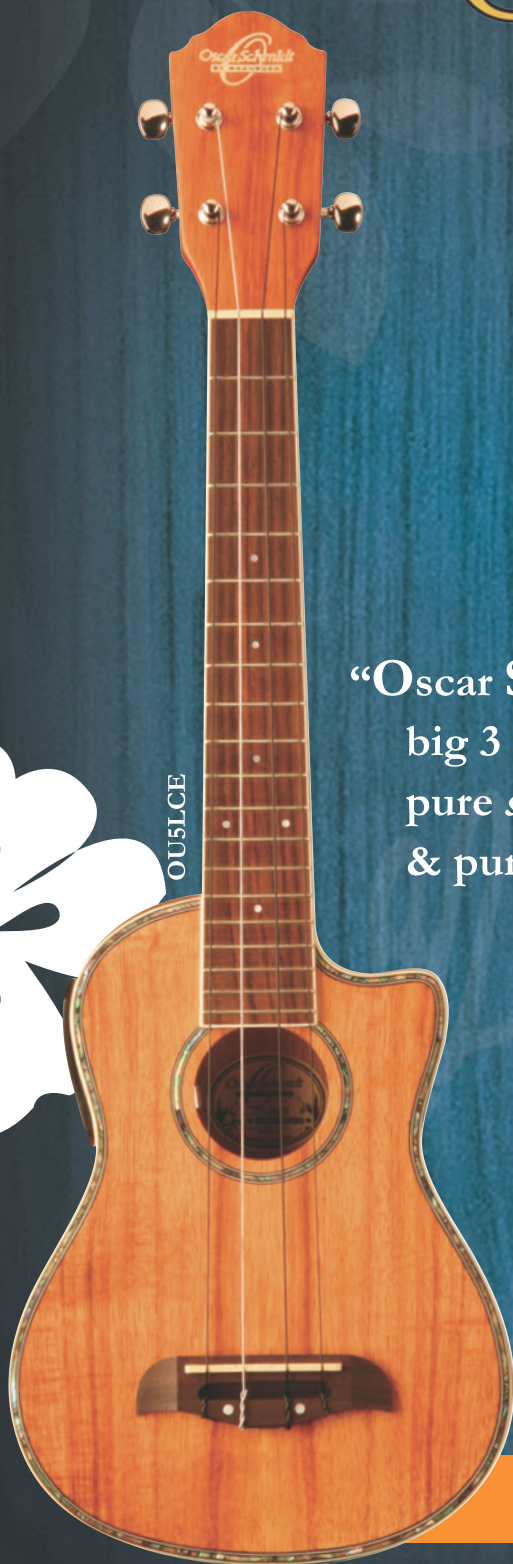
Jake Shimabukuro was in Akron, Ohio and we were there.

If you have not scene Jake in a live performance, you have to check his schedule and make the trip. And afterward, hang around and meet Jake.



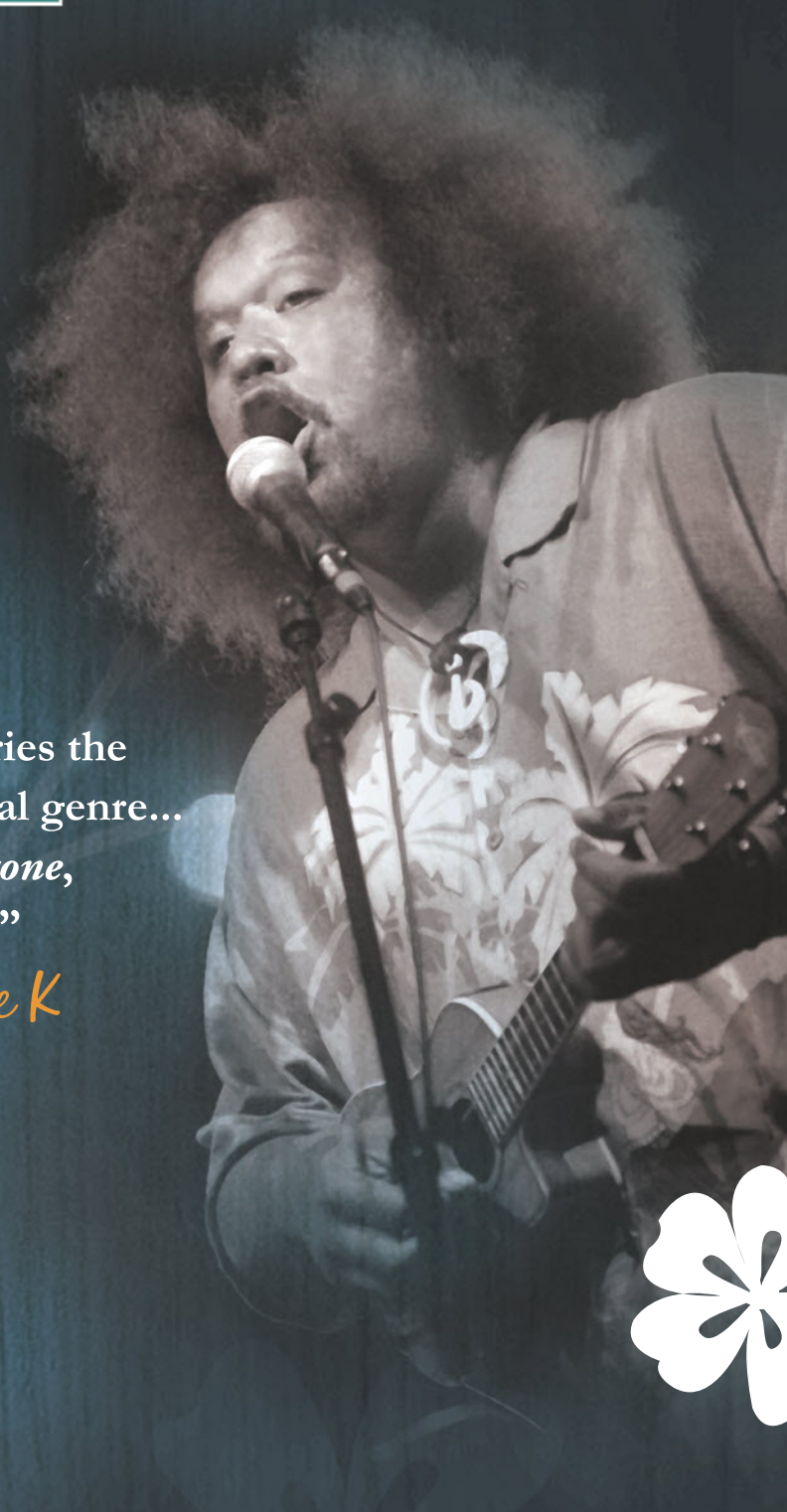
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John Denver Ukulele?

Now and then, I stumble across an image or two that surprise me. The two pictures below are ancient history, and I somehow missed them until now.

Here we have two images of (1974-75) John Denver playing the baritone ukulele. I knew he played but until now, I had no proof. John Denver and his uke.



The Barnkickers - Steve Boisen and Amanda in **ukulele player** hats.



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Ohana CK-35e

Louis Wu of Ohana Ukulele once asked me if I had a wish-list for ukulele features. Thinking about the question at the time, I told Louis that I'd like to see more instruments with electronics aimed at recording and performing musicians. I also mentioned that beginners and guitarists turned ukulele players would find more comfort with geared tuners.

If you have paid attention to what has been happening at Ohana lately you will find that Louis took my responses seriously, but I have a feeling that I was not the only one that answered the way I did.

Ohana's CK-35e has everything I would want in a stage performance uke. It is made of solid mahogany and features a nice binding, a rosewood fretboard and bridge. It has geared tuners that do the job nicely and don't look too large for the headstock.

This ukulele has a sweet tone and the neck feels superb.

The intonation is good all the way up the neck and the frets are nicely dressed and I found no sharp edges. The action is excellent and the ukulele projects sound very well.

I checked the fit and finish and all seams are nice and clean. In this sample, there is a small ding in it which likely happened by someone looking at the ukulele in a trade show or similar circumstance.

The headstock is nicely bound and the Ohana logo is pearl inlay. The tuners are pearl, too. That's a nice classy touch and they really look great.

This uke is outfitted with the popular UK-2000 pickup. I don't know if this is the new version of that pickup but I do know it sounds terrific. I plugged it into an acoustic amp and also into a digital studio recorder and I really liked what I heard.

I love the look of solid mahogany ukuleles. I love solid koa ukes, too, but something about mahogany ukes appeals to me. They are more mellow than koa. They have softer tones and, although they are not as crisp in the high and mid-tones, they are smoother in the lower registers and that makes them great for vocal performances.

Volume is not as much a concern when a ukulele has a pickup but feedback can be a real issue. I didn't have any issues with feedback on this uke



and that has been the case Ohana's ukes, as a rule.

The CK-35e has a sweet voice and plays smoothly. I love the feel of the neck and the frets. I love the geared tuners. This is a great ukulele at an affordable price and would be a great choice for recording and performing musicians. I highly recommend it.



Kala KA-UBASSFS

A while ago, Kala Ukes introduced the U-Bass to much fanfare and speculation. You should have heard the buzz online when people heard the rumor and had not yet seen the instrument. Then, MusicGuyMic had one in a video and the members of popular forum, Ukulele Underground, went nuts. There was rampant drooling and lots of people wanting one.

Well, I wanted to reserve judgment until playing one and now that I have, I will put this as concise and simple as possible. I want one, plain as that.

Yep, I have one sitting here and it will go to some lucky winner of the Kala Uke Give-A-Way. So, to whomever the winner may be, you lucky dog. I hope you enjoy it as much as the rest of the readers would love to enjoy it if they won it.

The U-Bass is strung with a rubbery plastic set of strings that give it an unusual feel, and they seem to stretch from here in Mid Ohio to New York City, but once they are in tune, and you plug the bass into an amp, it sounds fantastic!

Playing the U-bass is a bit different than playing a real bass guitar. It has a different

tactile feel and you can barely hear it when it is not plugged into a PA system or amplifier, but, plug this baby in and it really sounds wonderful.

The fit and finish were flawless and the neck was comfortable in my hand. The weight was inconsequential to me, but then, I also play a lot of guitar, but compared to a concert uke, this thing is BIG.

I like the short-scale neck. I was not sure if I would, but it does everything I really need to do with a bass guitar but it weighs a lot less and looks cool, too.

I love the headstock design and the look of the body. I love the black tuners. This is like a pint-sized acoustic bass guitar and it is tuned the same as a bass guitar. So, really, other than the short scale and the rubbery strings, it is really more of a bass than a uke.

The uke came to me in a sturdy case and from the moment I laid eyes on it, I was captivated.

Kala has a winner here. If I wanted to buy a new bass guitar, I would give the U-Bass a serious look before jumping on a standard, long-necked bass guitar for a lot of reasons. It is



much lighter and more portable. It sounds great. It is just plain cool. It can be played plugged or unplugged, but, playing it through a small bass amp would be my choice.

There are lots of bass guitars out there and many cost less than the U-Bass, but this is a really well-made acoustic bass instrument and a great addition to any ukulele ensemble.



A Guide to Blues Chord Progressions For Ukulele From A to Z

Curt Sheller is not only a top-notch blues guitarist, he is also one of the biggest blues ukulele players around.

If you are familiar with Curt's jazz uke books, then you have a good idea of what he might do with a blues chord progression book.

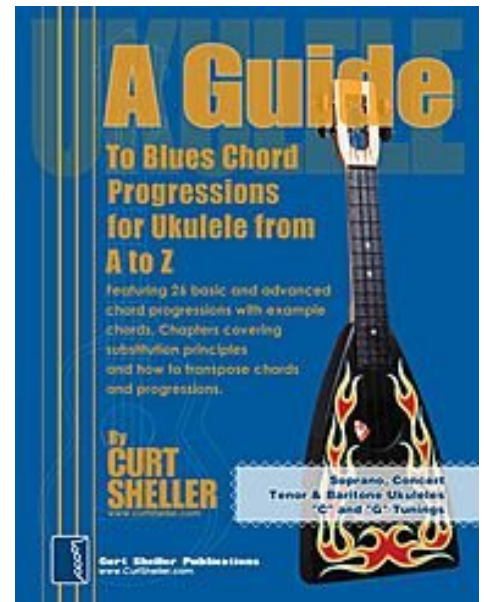
In this treasure trove of blues Curt starts with an over-view of chord substitution principles. In this, he covers passive chords, active chords, direct substitutions, replacements, and a lot more.

From page fifteen onward, Curt teaches you all about blues progressions. He starts with basic major chords and progresses through minor chords, diminished chords, diatonic and chromatic substitutions. He then explores the influential methods of blues artists of the past, those that became "standards".

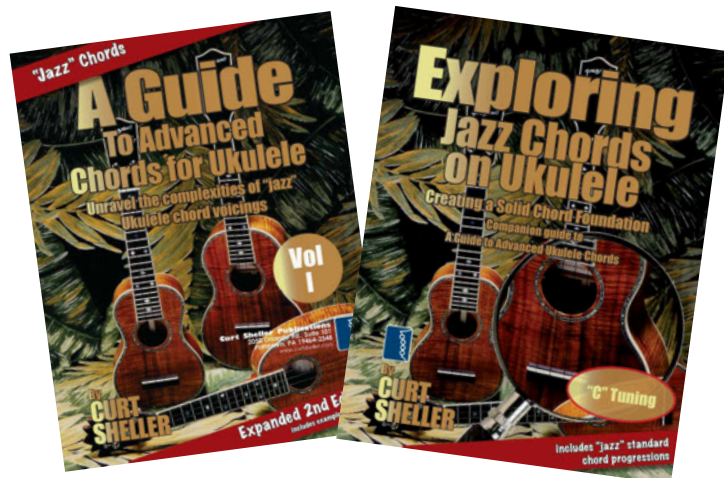
When Curt covers a topic, he immerses himself in it and starts with a solid foundation. He leaves nothing for granted, so, you can start from scratch and get a good education. If you buy several books, you might think that you already read some of what Curt is teaching you from an earlier book, but

Curt is applying things differently based on the style being taught. Some elements are the same, but the goal is to have the reader pick up any book and give them everything they need to explore this genre without having to guess at what the author is trying to tell you. That is a big benefit. Some writers want you to buy prerequisite books before moving to the good stuff, not Curt. You can pick a title and start learning.

I love the part of the book where you can start to really explore the progressions and



experiment with what you have learned. By the end of this book, you can start improvising like many of the legends of blues music past and present. You will have a good understanding of the blues chords and progressions that make up the backbone of this wonderful genre. This book is a fantastic learning tool and blues artists will find a multitude of treasures in it. Well done, Curt.



Beyond learning basic ukulele chords most players struggle with advanced chords. Commonly called "jazz chords", these more sophisticated chord voicings find a wide use in all forms of music.

If your goal is to expand your chord vocabulary, "A Guide to Advanced Chords for Ukulele" is your answer.

<http://www.curtsheller.com>

Zoom Q3

With the popularity of YouTube and videos, cameras like the "Flip" have become enormously popular. I reviewed the Flip in the last issue, but I discovered the Zoom Q3 and had to write a little about it.



The Zoom Q3 is a 640x480 resolution video camcorder. While that is not impressive by today's standards, it is also a recording studio quality field recorder.

Sporting the same two condenser mics on top that the Zoom H4n has, the Q3 provides superb audio quality for your videos.

I compared the Flip to the Q3 recording several tunes on guitar and I posted them on YouTube to give people a clear comparison of the two cameras. The Flip has better



Got Uke?



You can find Kala Ukuleles at www.ukeladymusic.com



Zoom Q3 Continued....

video image quality, but the Q3 has far superior audio.

Here is the YouTube channel:

www.youtube.com/PW320M

What you will hear with the Flip is a tinny, sort of shallow sounding audio track. It is also a mono recording. The Q3, on the other hand, is a full stereo recording with professional level bit depth.

Video quality on the Q3 really suffers when you record in low lighting. I experimented with my photographic studio lights and came up with a much more stable light situation than when I tried to use natural lighting coming from the sliding glass patio doors. Even the slightest change in sunlight intensity changed the color balance and shifted the entire image. The Flip handled that much better.

If you want excellent video imagery and feel that the audio is secondary, then the Flip is cheaper and is also better in that regard. It is smaller, too, and fits more comfortably in a shirt pocket.

If you want the best audio quality you can have in a video camcorder, then the Q3 is the best choice for you.

Carry plenty of batteries. The Q3 can go through them pretty fast if you record a lot of video. If you are outside, use the windscreen that comes with the camera to get rid of wind noise.



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StackAbones - Chris Baker

I first met Chris Baker, a.k.a. "Stackabones" on Harmony Central's Acoustic Guitar Forum.

Chris is a long-time professional guitarist and gigging musician. Somewhere along the way, he picked up a little ukulele and eventually added the uke to his performances.

Chris has been known to play more than one gig in a day. He makes his living entirely from gigging and teaching students how to play guitar and ukulele. Because he is not inclined to sit idle for long, Chris even organizes Harmony Central's Acoustic Guitar Forum's "virtual open mic", or "VOM". Participants post their songs for all to hear and the event is always entertaining.

I wanted to interview Chris because he does make his living entirely from music and he is one hard working musician. When he is not gigging or teaching he's writing songs.

The painting in the upper right corner is of an "oil painting" of our spotlight artist "Stackabones" and his Kala Archtop ukulele. It was painted by a friend and I include it in this story because should you see it on one of the many forums Chris frequents

you'll know it is Chris Baker, the singer-songwriter, guitarist and ukulele player.

I have to admire anyone that makes a living entirely from playing music, especially in today's music business climate.

There are rock venues where people pay the club to play. That's one of the reasons that I am fascinated with anyone that can make a decent living doing what Chris does.

This interview should make for fascinating reading for anyone contemplating a career as a working musician.



Introducing Chris Baker, a.k.a. "Stackabones".

Q: How many years have you played guitar?

A: I've played guitar for almost 30 years, and I've been playing uke for around 7 years.

Q: How long did you play before you started gigging?

A: I started gigging within my first





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couple of years of starting guitar.

First gig was with a power trio (guitar, bass, and drums-- bassist sang) at a Sweet 16 birthday party. Some of the tunes and here are some of the tunes I remember playing: Sunshine Of Your Love, The Spirit of Radio, Pride (In The Name of Love), Stairway to Heaven. We played in the living-room and were so loud that everyone had to go outside to the front lawn, except our one fan.

My first paying gig was in Deep Ellum at a place called the Prophet Bar. I've played in Deep Ellum most of my performing life and it's my alma mater. I even learned how to play Deep Elem Blues while on the stages of Deep Ellum venues.

Q: You gig a lot. How many gigs do you perform in a month?

A: Currently, I'm playing at least five gigs a week so that makes for at least 20 a month. Sometimes I get a few more gigs. Last year I played over 200 gigs, mostly solo with guitar & voice or guitar/ukulele & voice.

Q: When did you first discover ukulele?

A: I played picked up lap steel and started to listening to

Hawaiian Sol Hoopii, who is a legendary lap steel player-- the grandfather of all lap steelers. Underneath that incredible lap steel playing, there was often a ukulele.

During my lap steel years, I played in a band called the Hula Rangers. We had one gig a year for a few years-- the Don Ho Down. Giant pictures of Don Ho's head everywhere, Hawaiian shirts, pig roasting, and us playing all sorts of Hawaiian tunes (mostly schmaltzy touristy tunes). The washboard player, Jeff, was the ukulele player. That's probably the first time I ever played one.

Q: How long was it before you started putting ukulele in your act?

A: It's odd. I played uke for several years before I started taking it to gigs. Not sure why it took so long. Probably just didn't feel like schlepping it along. Actually, I just had to make sure that I was putting the ukulele songs in the right keys. I had to think in keys and numbers and ukulele-chord names, not guitar-chord shapes and guitar-chord names. Now I take it to about one a week or every other week, and sometimes I'll do an all-uke gig with my soprano and 8-string tenor. There are weeks that I take it



with me all the time.

Q: You are a songwriter, too. Have you written any songs specifically for ukulele?

A: For me, the ukulele is such a great songwriting instrument. I love singing with a ukulele. While I prefer playing ukulele on the songs that I've written on ukulele, I still work up a guitar version, too. The same applies for the songs I've written on guitar. I'll transfer some of those guitar songs over to ukulele.

In a sense, I don't really consider my songs specifically for ukulele or for guitar, though I feel that I write differently with each one. Though I think I could have only written songs like Toaster Too Short Bread Too

Tall and Mysterious on ukulele. So perhaps my songwriting mind thinks differently on the two instruments, but my performing mind is able to bridge the gap.

Q: Have you recorded any songs on both guitar and ukulele renditions?

A: Only one so far, Mysterious. I have a ukulele version, a re-entrant tuned (EAdGB_e) guitar version, and an 8-string ukulele version. There are several more that I'd like to make ukulele versions. One I did recently, though haven't recorded, is Whatever. It works nicely and I found that I liked singing it in F (on uke) instead of E (on guitar).

Q: Have you recorded any songs with both guitar and ukulele tracks?

A: Just a few, Toil & Spin and Leave This Room. The two instruments are really great together and I should do more with them.

Q: You have been teaching guitar students for years and now you are teaching ukulele students. How long have you been teaching the ukulele?

A: I've been teaching ukulele for four years.

Q: How many students do you have studying ukulele?

A: Right now I have two and sorta three-- sorta three because the third one also takes guitar. I'd love to have more. Ukulele students are a blast.

Q: Do you have any students learning both guitar and ukulele?

A: Yes-- and some students have even started on guitar and then switched to ukulele once they find out that I teach it.

Q: I know that you have a Kala archtop uke. How many other ukuleles do you have at this point?

A: My first ukulele was a Rogue Baritone. Next a friend sold me a pineapple soprano, Kolohe Uke from MGM, a mahogany laminate with friction tuners. I had such difficulties getting used to the friction tuners that it turned me off from playing it, but I've learned more about them and actually prefer them. That little soprano ukulele is my favorite. I also have a Lanikai O-8E, which is an 8-string tenor. What a lovely sound that one has-- rich, lush, and loud.

Q: Do you have a "dream uke"?

A: I'd love to get a custom-made ukulele, maybe even from someone here in Texas. Perhaps a pineapple? Or an 8-string? Or maybe even a pineapple 8-string!!! Can 8ers have friction pegs, too? Wait a minute ... That could take up some serious time tuning. I dig slotheads, too.

Q: Do you have any CDs for sale? If not, have you thought about it?

A: No, I don't have anything for sale. Were I to go on tour or do

more gigs playing original tunes, I'd probably consider it. Most of what I do now is cover material. Actually, I should put something out with those covers. So much time and effort I've put into the arrangements! I'd love to share my vision of those covers. Hmmmm.

Q: How about a CD of ukulele tunes?

A: That would be so cool. I should put one of those together.

Q: Have you met with any other ukulele players in Texas for jam sessions? any club meetings?

A: I've never been to a ukulele jam in Texas or anywhere else. The last two Lone Star Uke Fests I've missed due to bookings and students and whatnot. Most club meetings meet when I'm at gigs or teaching students.

The only ukulele jam I had was at a gig. A kid came up to me and asked if he could sit it in-- he had his uke in the car. He brought it in and we started figuring out what songs to do. He called a song, but he didn't know the words. You can't call a song if you don't know the words! I showed him how to play Hank Williams' "Mind Your Own Business" and we also played the classic New Orleans song, "Iko Iko". Two- and three-chord songs are always easy to learn and fun to play.

Q: Do you have any distinctly "ukulele" goals musically? any "general" music goals? (guitar, uke, whatever else)

A: Lately I've been playing some mento (Jamaican calypso) songs with the ukulele. I love that music, and I'd love to get a mento band featuring the ukulele. Just gotta find a rhumba box player.

My general goals are to keep getting better on each instrument and improve my singing. I'm always looking for new songs to cover. For the past several weeks I've been stockpiling 1950s rockabilly songs. The search for songs never ends. In a few weeks, I could be digging up bossa nova tunes.

Also, I've recently started a schola cantorum, which is an a cappella group focusing on Gregorian chant. We call ourselves the Plano Schola Gregoriana. We sing in Latin! I can't speak Latin, but I can sing in it. Eventually, I'll arrange some chants for uke and voice. I guess I should get a cassock if I'm going to that. Can one wear a lei and a cassock while strumming a uke and singing Gregorian chant? Please, pray for me.

Q: As a professional guitarist, ukulele player, singer-songwriter, would you say it is getting tougher to make a living at it?

A: Basically what I do is freelance work. There are feast and fast times. It goes through cycles and you just have to hang tight during the fasts and try not go too wild during the feasts, which is tough for me because I'm more of a grasshopper than an ant.

Q: If you could give some advice to wanna-be professional performers, what pearls of wisdom could you share?

A: Everyone gets nervous, and being nervous is almost indistinguishable from being excited. When I get butterflies in my stomach, I just tell myself that I'm excited and hit the stage. Smile!

Always have at least one or two songs that you know cold-- so cold that you can even make mistakes and it won't phase you. Use one to open and the other to close your sets. Everything else inbetween is a journey.

Make your best effort to memorize your songs in your sets. I have around four or more hours of music that I know by heart. If I show up anywhere, someone can hand me a guitar or a ukulele and play. No hemming and hawing about not having my music with me. My music is always with me.

Play every gig as if it were your first, only and last gig.

Q: And for the students out there, just starting out, any words of encouragement?

A: Keep on playing! Even during those periods when you think nothing is happening, keep on playing! Even when you've hit a plateau and you never think you'll break through, keep on playing!

~Thanks for the interview, Chris.



<http://www.wsukes.com>



<http://www.ukecast.com/mp3/>

German Village Music Haus

We Sell Ukuleles

expert setups for your fine ukuleles and guitars.

350 S. Grant Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Bill Foley, owner and luthier.
www.gvmh.com
(614) 228-8467
email: info@gvmh.com

ukulele player and Kala present...

ukulele player and Kala Ukuleles came together to bring you this exciting opportunity. One lucky reader will win this ukulele.



All you have to do is submit your name, an e-mail address, and a shipping address so that if you are the winner, we will be able to ship it to you. You only need to submit your information one time and you will be in the running for all of the Kala Ukulele give-a-ways.

You read about the Kala KA-UBASSFS ukulele in this issue of **ukulele player**, now, here is your chance to win it. Follow the instructions below...

We will not share your contact information with anyone for any reason.

note: if you have trouble with the form, e-mail your entry to giveaway@tricornpublications.com
Include name, shipping address, e-mail address.



Go to this website and fill in the form and click the submit button for your CHANCE to win. There is no purchase necessary. One submission per person will be counted. The lucky winner will be decided by a random number generator program. The contest entry cut-off date will be the 20th of every month of the current issue. The winner will be chosen on the 24th of that same month. The winner will be announced on Ukulele-Cosmos, Ukulele Underground, and Flea Market Music.

http://www.tricornpublications.com/uke_contest.htm

Thanks for reading **ukulele player**
and thanks to Kala Ukuleles for their support.



Ukulele Club Listings...

If you would like to list your club here, submit contact information at this website:

http://www.tricornpublications.com/uke_player.htm
 or e-mail me at this address:
mickey@tricornpublications.com
 We will add you to our list.

USA

Arizona

Scottsdale Strummers, Scottsdale AZ, Contact Pat McInnis
 weekly daytime meeting, monthly evening meeting
 email: pat@azukulele.com
 website: azukulele.com

Tucson Ukesters

Tucson, AZ
 Meet weekly - usually on Monday afternoon
 Contact: Kristi
twoazin@comcast.net

California

Nuked Ukes

We are in Auburn California. Welcoming players from all levels.
 contact: Loyce Smallwood
loy@foothill.net
www.kahi.com/loyce'sblog

Ukulele Society of America

Contact: Richard Douglas
 (760) 458-6656
 300 Carlsbad Village Dr.
 Carlsbad CA, 92008
http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/ukulele_society_of_america

Ukulele Club of Santa Cruz

www.ukuleleclub.com

One of the Largest Ukulele clubs in America! Usually meets every third thursday at Bocci's celler in Santa Cruz, but check the website, cause it sometimes changes. Or email Andy@cruzio.com for club information.



<http://www.wsukes.com>



<http://www.ukecast.com/mp3/>

German Village Music Haus

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expert setups for your fine
 ukuleles and guitars.

350 S. Grant Avenue
 Columbus, Ohio 43215

Bill Foley, owner and luthier.
www.gvmh.com
 (614) 228-8467
 email: info@gvmh.com

Ukulele Clubs continued

Ukulele University

New uke club in the Sacramento, CA. Area. Meet 1st Thursday eve monthly
email: stuherrid@yahoo.com
website: www.ukeuniversity.com

Colorado

The **Denver Uke Community** has been bringing Ukemaniacs together since 2005, We meet each month on the third Saturday at Swallow Hill Music Association at 10:30am. All skill levels from beginner to "Wow that person ROCKS the Ukulele", we also play a wide range of music, from country, tin pan alley, Hawaiian.
<http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/UkuleleCommunityDenver/>

Connecticut

The Ukulele Club of Southern Connecticut and the KookeeUkie Ukulele Band.

We welcome players of all skill levels and offer classes for those new to the ukulele. Check our web site at <http://www.orgsites.com/ct/uke-club/index.html>.
Pete Johnson
email=petejhnsn@sbcglobal.net

Florida

Tampa Bay Ukulele Society
www.meetup.com/tampabayukes

Each meeting will start with a group lesson followed by an informal jam session for players of all levels. Everyone gets a chance to call a few tunes.

Chicago Illinois

CHUG - CHicago Ukulele Group
We have our monthly Chicago Uke Jam the 3rd Saturday of every month.
Please contact Henry at Henriness@gmail.com

Oak Park Ukulele Meetup Group aka The Harrison Street Ukulele Players
Every Thursday 7P-9P Venue: La Majada Restaurant - Banquet Room
226 Harrison Street, Oak Park IL 60304 website: www.ukulele.meetup.com/89
contact: wonderwallemporium@yahoo.com

Kansas (and Western Missouri)

Kansas City Ukesters
<http://www.kcuke.com>

Kentucky

Kentucky Ukes
meeting the fourth Sunday of every month
KentuckianaUkes@yahoo.com

Ukulele Clubs continued

Michigan

Ukulele Jam, 4th Tuesday night of the Month Oz's
Music Ann Arbor MI.
jerryefmally@yahoo.com

Minnesota

Two Harbors Ukulele Group (THUG), Two Harbors MN.
Email: al@agatebaymusic.com

StrumMn ukulele players
<http://strummn.nexo.com/>

Nevada

The Ukulele Club of Las Vegas
www.meetup.com/ukulele-club-of-las-vegas

New Mexico

The High Desert Sand Fleas
Meet the 2nd & 4th Thursday of each month at the
Albuquerque Press Club [6pm - 9pm]
2101 Highland Park Circle, Albuquerque, New Mexico - USA
contact: Stephen Hunt via email: hdsfgcea@gmail.com.
<http://sites.google.com/site/hdsfgcea/>

New York

Ukulele Club of Potsdam (New York)
meet-up every other Friday at 5PM at Tim's Comic & Game, 6 Main Street
contact: Tim Connolly tim@discoverpotsdam.com call: (315) 268-1598.
Loaner ukes available. Bring your uke and leave your cares at home!

Ohio

COUP (Central Ohio Ukulele Peeps)
coup@tricornpublications.com

Jumping Flea Night Monthly uke strum-along
Cleveland Heights, Ohio. LAST Tuesdays 7:30 - 8:30 at Coventry Village Library.
Free & open to everyone!! Contact: melissaogrady@ymail.com

Oklahoma

Green Country Ukes

Meeting the needs of ukulele players in the greater Tulsa area
contact via e-mail: rskjrmail@gmail.com

Pennsylvania

Allegheny Ukulele Kollektive (Look for us on Facebook!) New uke group taking

Ukulele Clubs continued

shape. Hoping for twice monthly jams and sing-alongs for all levels.
Hollidaysburg/Altoona, Pennsylvania, Contact: Steve kss15@psu.edu

South Carolina

Lowcountry Strummers Ukulele Club

Charleston, SC metro area. We meet twice a month. One beginner class and open Jam each month. All are Welcome.
www.lowcountrystrummers.com e-mail lowcountrystrummers@gmail.com

Texas

Robert S. Sparkman
sparky.judy@tx.rr.com

Lone Star Ukulele Club (in North Dallas)

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lonestarukeyles>

The Dallas Ukulele Headquarters

Go to www.meetup.com and search The Dallas Ukulele Headquarters to join the group. Lots of fun events and jams!

CHUG - Coffee House Ukulele Gang

Fort Worth, Texas

This wild west ukulele gang meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month.
Contact Steve for more info. (steve_w_williams@yahoo.com)

Vermont

Vermont Ukulele Society

email: vyhnak@sover.net
Meets on the second and fourth Mondays of each month.

Virginia Ukulele Club

Vienna, Virginia

Meeting twice a month to play a huge range of traditional, tin pan alley, standards, and lots of pop tunes. Members come from the whole DC metro area, including Virginia, Washington DC, and Maryland. All ages and levels of ability welcome.

Contact:
Ben Farrington
ukeclub@yahoo.com

Washington

Seattle Ukulele Players Association (SUPA)

www.seattleukulele.org/

Cowlitz Ukulele Association

Ukulele Clubs continued

Longview, WA. 98626
CowUke@yahoo.com

UK England

Ukulele Society of Great Britain

43 Finstock Road, London W10 6LU
Tel: 020 8960 0459
Email: m@gicman.com

Cambridge Ukulele Co-operative [Cuckoo]

Meet alternate Sundays 2pm-6pm
The Portland Arms Cambridge CB4 3BAIf
If you're cuckoo about ukes come and join us.
<http://www.myspace.com/cambridgeukuleleclub>

Ukulele Philharmonic Orchestra of Sudbury

Tuesdays evenings from 7.00pm
The Institute, Station Road, Sudbury Suffolk CO10 2SP
Beginners Welcome

Uke Wednesday Jam

Every Wednesday 7 till closing Downstairs @ The Royal George
Charing Cross Road, London, WC2H 0EA, U.K.
contact: Quinc email: qnc@qncv.com
<http://ukeweds.intodit.com>

SCUPA - Second City Ukulele Players Association

We meet weekly on Tuesdays at 7:30pm in the upstairs room
at The New Billesley Pub, Brook Lane, Kings Heath,
Birmingham, West Midlands B13 0AB

We accommodate all players beginners to experienced.

Call or text Jon 0787 353 1161 or email:
jay.eyebigfoot.com for more information.

Stockton to Darlington Ukulele Express

Meeting monthly in Darlington, northeast England new members always
welcome. contact Simon at simonb250@hotmail.com
<http://ukuleleexpress.blogspot.com>

Tune Army Ukulele Club

The Bay Horse, Front Street, Wickham, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE16 4EF
Meeting first Monday of the month 7:30 - 9:30
<http://tunearmy.blogspot.com/>

UkeGlos Ukulele Club

Meets Every Mondays every month, 8.00pm
The Exmouth Arms, Bath Rd
Cheltenham, GL53 7LX

Wooden & banjo ukes welcome. All levels of playing ability & song styles. For

Ukulele Clubs continued

full details visit: www.ukeglos.co.uk
<http://www.ukeglos.co.uk>

Ukulele Sundays host:Tim Smithies

email: tim@timsmithies.com

I host a Ukulele Jam session on Sunday evenings in Sheffield UK called 'Ukulele Sundays' All welcome - 8.30pm onwards. Riverside Cafe Bar.
<http://www.ukulelesundays.co.uk>.

"Brighton ukulele Sundays"

Meet first Sunday of the month at the Brunswick Pub in Hove East Sussex UK.
Visit Facebook Brighton Ukulele Sundays for more details.

Leicester Ukulele Club

All welcome, First Monday of the month,
Upstairs at Babalas Bar, Queens Road, Leicester
Contact: dave.davies1@virgin.net or mark@littleredtruck.co.uk

Herts of Uke Ukulele Club

Every 4th Sunday - 6.30pm onwards.
Meet at The Doctors Tonic, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, AL8 6PR

All Players Welcome

Websites: <http://sites.google.com/site/hertsofuke/>
email: hertsofuke@gmail.com

Luton, UK

We meet once a fortnight at Greenbank Music Village,
Greenbank Hal, Cobden Street, Luton, LU2 0NG
Anyone interested can give us a call:

Keith 07745 613931
Scott 07976 895067
Gerry 07785 117029
<http://sites.google.com/site/ukuleleworkshopinluton/>

Ireland

UKULELE IRELAND

ukulele@ireland.com

Irish ukulele club meets on the second saturday of each month.Players from all over Ireland. Ukeplayers of all levelswelcome. If you are a visiting uke player please feel free to come along. The meetups are held at 2, eden park, Dunlaoire, Co. Dublin.

Ukuholics

truepants@eircom.net

The Ukuholics are based in the Irish Midlands and meet once a month.
Players of any or no ability will fit in nicely!
Visit www.ukuholics.webs.com for more info

Ukulele Clubs continued

Scotland

Monday Ukearist

Edinburgh's very own ukulele gathering. We gather once a fortnight on Mondays from 7 to 10(pm!) at Mackenzie School of English near the foot of Leith Walk

6 John's Place,
EH6 7EP

Contact: John Hobson, +44 (0)7940 513969, jhobson@gmail.com
<http://ukearist.co.uk>

South Wales

Ukulele Nights

meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of every month at 8.30pm.
The Albion, Glebe Street, Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan, South Wales

Contact: Sarah Thomas: sarahredsedge@yahoo.co.uk.
Blog: www.ukenights.blogspot.com
(for songbooks, directions and more. Beginners very welcome)

Germany

Ukulele Club of Germany

info@ukulelenclub.de
www.ukulelenclub.de (home page)
www.ukulelenboard.de (message board)

Deutscher Ukulelenclub

c/o Raimund Sper
Korneliusstrasse 1
D-47441 Moers
tel. +49/2841-394837
fax + 49/2841-394836
www.ukulelenclub.de

Holland

Ukulele Jamboree in Rotterdam - hosted by 'The Uke Box'

The night is comprised of a workshop, performances & open mic.
To Join the Mailing List send an e-mail to: guaranteed2swoon@gmail.com

To read more about this and our other ukulele projects go to:

<http://www.ukulele-interventie.blogspot.com> (Dutch)

Visit my personal blog spot and click on 'Ukulele' under "Contents" (English)

<http://www.shelleyrickey.blogspot.com>

'Uke & D'Uke'

Ukulele Clubs continued

<http://ukeandduke.blogspot.com/> (in Dutch)

Note: Shelley has an Etsy store where you can find ukulele related items for sale, check it out: <http://www.thejumpingfleamarket.etsy.com>

France

Ukulele Club of Paris

Thursday starting 7:30 PM

Meetings are announced on the website King David Ukulele Station at this URL:

<http://www.ukulele.fr>

C.O.U.L.E.

Club Olympique de Ukulélé de Lille et des Environs

<http://www.COULE.fr>

"Stay cool, come and play with the C.O.U.L.E."

VSalele

Association des Ukuleliste de Valbonne Sophia Antipolis (Alpes Maritimes)

Visit www.vsalele.org for more info

Spain

Club del Ukelele de Madrid (SPAIN)

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=131466486122>

"Para todos los aficionados al ukelele que viven en Madrid"

"For all the ukelele fans living at Madrid"

Now preparing their first festival and meeting very soon - stay tuned!



USA

Lone Star Ukulele Festival

dates are 4/27-28 in Dallas

UkeLadyMusic and The Dallas Ukulele Headquarters are organizing the event.
more information coming soon.

Hawaii State Society of Washington, DC

Oct 9-11, 2009.

Herb Ohta, Jr. and Keale are the ukulele players that we
are featuring as the ukulele instructors.

UK Ukefest

July 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th 2009

Run Cottage

Hollesley

Suffolk IP12 3RQ

more information available soon on

www.ukulelecosmos.com/phpBB2/index.php

London Uke Festival And World Record Smash!!!

Calling All Uke players! All ages and abilities, 1000 Uke players in an afternoon
of entertainment with bands, food, drink, very special guests and a charity
money raising World Record attempt!!

Devonshire Square, London EC2.

contact Quincy at qnc@qnctv.com

20th June: Noon till 6pm,

France

Paris ukulele Festival

Le 4 juillet 2009 / July 4th 2009 "La Bellevilloise"

<http://www.myspace.com/parisukefest>

infos@parisukefest.com



Making beautiful music is your passion, helping you do it is ours.



This year edition will happen on July 4th with :
Kelli Rae Powell (USA) www.myspace.com/kelliraepowell
Tim Sweeney (USA) <http://www.timsweeney.us/>
Elvira Bira (Sweden) www.myspace.com/elvirabira

Ukulele Zaza (Belgium) www.myspace.com/ukulelezaza

Marie Darling (France) www.myspace.com/mariedarling
Patti Plinko and her Boy (UK)
www.myspace.com/pattiplinkoandherboy
Les Ukulélé Boyz (France) www.myspace.com/ukuleleboys47

Vonck and Vlam

touring from Holland to Istanbul - this summer...
www.vonck-vlam.eu
Check out the Website... that's great entertainment!

WORLD MUSIC DAY at Auburn Preserve Park

from Noon to 5pm June 20th. No fee. Join us for fun: For Festival Info contact:
NUKED UKES
loy@foothill.net

Announcing a new Meetup for The Tampa Bay Ukulele Society!

What: Tampa Bay Ukulele Society presents "open mic" at New Harmony Coffee & Tea

When: August 29, 2009 2:00 PM

Where: New Harmony Coffee & Tea 1949 Drew Street, Clearwater, FL 33765

Australia

<http:// Cairnsukulelefestival.net>

The Cairns Festival looks like it is shaping up to be a great event, check it out.

Take It On the Road

When it comes time to take your act on the road, whether it's a tour or just a festival, you want to make sure your gear is protected.

It is best to store delicate musical instruments in the passenger compartment of your vehicle. The trunk of a car can easily reach 180 degrees and that could damage any musical instrument, especially a solid wood ukulele or guitar.

Packing your gear is easy, but it takes a little investment and some time. Hardshell cases are the best protection for your instruments. If you have a PA system, put your mixing console in a road-box if possible and protect the front of all speakers from contact with anything, especially mic-stands and the like.

Cables are best layered in a box of some sort. A hat box is perfect and layers of cardboard between them adds a little weight, but prevents nasty tangles.

When you set the stage and have done your sound-check, if you are leaving the immediate area for a while, take your guitars and ukuleles with you, and your microphones. Believe it or not, mics disappear on a pretty regular basis and even if nobody takes your guitar or uke, people can't resist picking them up and fiddling around.



Essential Links from the World-Wide-Web

UkeTalk - <http://uketalk.com/links.html>

"Ukulele Spoken Here" is one phrase that comes to mind. If you want to talk ukulele or catch all the news that is news, this is a can't miss website.

Brudda Bu's Ukulele Heaven

<http://www.geocities.com/~ukulele/index.html>

If you'd like to learn the history of some of ukulele's greatest players, this site is absolutely essential.

Ukulelia - <http://www.ukulelia.com/>

The World's Greatest Ukulele WebLog" Need I say more?

Ukulele Cosmos - <http://www.ukulelecosmos.com>

One of the hottest ukulele forums on the web. Don't Miss It!

Ukulele Underground

<http://www.ukuleleunderground.com/forum/index.php>

Another really popular ukulele forum, lots of Hawaiian players and folks from the West Coast of the Mainland USA.

Flea Market Music - <http://www.fleamarketmusic.com/default.asp>

This is Jumpin' Jim Beloff's website. He has lots of great resources and an excellent forum as well. You can buy Flukes and Fleas there, too. Jim also has lots of songbooks, DVDs, and other great stuff there.

UkeLadyMusic - <http://www.ukeladymusic.com/>

Auntie Noel runs a really great shop. Her passion is ukulele and it shows.

Contact Us: phone 214-924-0408

or email noel.tardy@yahoo.com

Kiwi Ukulele

New Zealand's Ukulele Companion

<http://www.kiwiukulele.co.nz/>

Bounty Music

<http://www.ukes.com/>

Bounty Music Maui

111 Hana Hwy. #105

Kahului, Maui, HI 96732

open 9 :00 to 6:00 Monday thru Saturday * Sunday 10:00 to 4:00

Phone: (808) 871-1141

Fax: (808) 871-1138

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We Sell Ukuleles

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350 S. Grant Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Bill Foley, owner and luthier.

www.gvmh.com

(614) 228-8467

email: info@gvmh.com



<http://www.ukecast.com/mp3/>

Online Resources

<http://www.tikiking.com>

tikiking@tikiking.com

comment=Website listing:

Home of Tiki King Ukuleles since 1999. lots of neat Ukulele stuff, such as the webs largest Ukulele makers database, Custom Hand Built Tiki King Ukuleles, and ukulele stuff to see and buy. We have Flukes and Fleas, Ukulele Art Gallery, Ukulele classes, chord charts, CD's and more!

Bonsai Garden Orchestra

email: info@bgo.nu

Webside: <http://www.bgo.nu>

MySpace: <http://www.myspace.com/bonsaigardenorchestra>

World Music Festival "glattundverkehrt" on july 22nd .
www.glattundverkehrt.at

UkePics

Assorted Ukulele Picture Exposé

<http://www.ukepics.com/>

How High The Moon Publishing

Publisher of the Jam Book "Play Well with Other"

9826 James A. Reed Rd. Kansas City, MO 64134

816-965-0183 or 816-728-6936

<http://www.moonbookstore.com>

Uke Farm - <http://www.ukefarm.com/home.HTML>

Uke Farm Radio - <http://www.live365.com/stations/ukefarm>

GoChords

<http://www.gochords.com>

"GoChords™" is an easy-to-use writing and playing tool with moveable chord tablature!"

Live 'Ukulele

Tabs, lessons, and info for 'ukulele enthusiasts

<http://liveukulele.com/>

<http://ukeattitude.blogspot.com/>

<http://twitter.com/ukeattitude>

<http://gotaukulele.blogspot.com/>

Don't Let Foul Weather Be A Show-Stopper

Outdoor venues are very common these days and it is obvious what can happen to your beautiful ukulele if you get caught in a down-pour. But what about indoor shows?

When foul weather hits, keep your eyes and ears open. If you see lightning in the distance, from the time of the flash to the time you hear the thunder is a good guideline for determining just how far the storm is from you.

It is said that for every second of delay between the flash of lightning to the sound of thunder there is one mile of distance between the advancing storm and you. Start counting and wrap things up quickly if possible.

Many people believe that surge protectors will safe-guard them against lightning damage. Nothing could be further from the truth. Lightning is static electricity and it can just from one guard-rail on a highway to the other in the blink of an eye. Your surge protector will be useless if lightning strikes.

Static discharge from a fingertip can be 2000 volts, what does a bolt of lightning measure.

Your best bet is simply to unplug and wait out the storm. Your gear is too valuable to risk the chance of lightning damage.